Narragansett Laboratory
28 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI

The Narragansett Laboratory conducts research on the effects of changing oceanographic and ecological conditions on the productivity and health of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf ecosystem in relation to the recovery of depleted fish stocks and the conservation of protected species. The Laboratory is also the home of the Northeast Cooperative Research Program, which works with fishermen to improve information regarding fish and shellfish stocks in the region. Studies also are conducted on the demography and ecology of shark populations in response to oceanographic conditions to provide information for shark assessment and management. The Laboratory has also been a focal point in the region for incorporating climate information into fisheries and endangered species assessments.

Our Strengths

- Integrated Ecosystem Monitoring of the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf including all aspects of pelagic habitats (chemistry to whales)
- Production of Ecosystem Advisories and Ecosystem Status Reports in support of the development of regional Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management
- Ecological studies of commercially and recreationally important shark species and application to assessments
- Cooperative research programs with industry including surveys, gear studies, and development of cooperative assessments
- Process-oriented research on the influence of the environment and lower trophic levels on living marine resources
- Impact of climate variability and change of living marine resource distribution and productivity
- Contribution of oceanographic and ecological information to living marine resource assessment
- Satellite oceanography and application to fisheries and endangered species research
- Support of several other NOAA Programs including Habitat Restoration, NOAA Coast Survey, and AOML Northeast U.S. Operations
- Development of social indicators to understand human interactions in marine ecosystems

Nancy Kohler, head of the Apex Predators Program, captures a tiger shark during a research survey. The shark was later released. Photo credit: NEFSC/NOAA

Our Place in the Region

- **History** - The Laboratory was designed and built by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sportfish and Wildlife and dedicated in October 1966. It was turned over to the Department of Commerce, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in October 1970, and has been operated since by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center.
- **Location** - As part of the Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island (URI), the Lab is adjacent to URI's Graduate School of Oceanography and the Atlantic Ecology Division (AED) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- **Community** – Close research collaborations with regional federal, state, and academic scientists, undergraduate and graduate education programs and recreational and commercial fishermen.

A CTD (conductivity, temperature, depth) with a rosette of Niskin bottles is recovered from a research vessel. Photo credit: Jerry Prezioso, NEFSC/NOAA

New Directions

- Development of climate-ready Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management
- Expand use of cooperative research products in living marine resource assessments
- Advanced sampling technologies including satellite, acoustics, optical, and genetic techniques to improve ecosystem observing

NOAA FISHERIES

Key Projects

- Apex Predators Program
- Cooperative Research Program
- Ecosystem Monitoring Program
- Hydrographic Monitoring Program
- Fisheries and the Environment (FATE) studies
- Ecosystem Assessments
- Climate Assessments

Key Collaborations

- University of Rhode Island - Graduate School of Oceanography
- US Environmental Protection Agency – Atlantic Ecology Division
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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